

AMENDMENTS TO THE DRAWINGS:

The attached sheets of drawings include changes to Figures 1 and 2, and new Figures 7 and 8. Replacement Sheets, 1/7 and 2/7, include Figures 1, 1A, 2, and 2A, and replace the previous sheets, 1/6 and 2/6, which included Figures 1, 1A, 2, and 2A. In Figures 1 and 2, element reference 39 has been added to identify the projection receiving aperture.

Replacement Sheets, 3/7, 4/7, 5/7, and 6/7, which include Figures 3, 3A, 4, 5, and 6 replace previous sheets, 3/6, 4/6, 5/6, and 6/6, which included Figures 3, 3A, 4, 5, and 6, and merely reflect that the total number of sheets of Figures is now 7. Figures 3, 3A, 4, 5, and 6 are otherwise unchanged.

A New Sheet, 7/7, includes new Figures 7 and 8. New Figure 7 is another alternate perspective view of the track fitting 10 of Figure 1, illustrating the plunger 14 in the first position, as also shown in Figures 2 and 2A. The front portion receiving aperture 15 is clearly visible in Figure 7. Support for new Figure 7 is found most particularly in Figures 2 and 2A.

New Figure 8 is a perspective view of the track fitting of Figure 1, positioned on a track 30 with the plunger 14 in a first disengaged position. Support for new Figure 8 is found most particularly in Figures 2, 2A, and 3.

Attachment: Replacement Sheets

New Sheet

REMARKS

Applicants appreciate the Examiner's thorough review and examination of the application. In the Office Action dated June 22, 2007, the Examiner initially objected to the drawings and the Specification under 37 CFR 1.83(a), 1.75(d); and MPEP § 608.01(o). The Examiner rejected claims 1, 4, 5, 8-13, and 16-20 pursuant to 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which Applicants regard as the invention. Examiner also rejected claims 1, 5, 8, and 13 pursuant to 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 4,085,684 issued to McLennan et al. Examiner rejected claims 12, 19, and 20 pursuant to 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 4,085,684 issued to McLennan et al. in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,715,820 issued to Haas. Lastly, the Examiner indicated that claims 4, 9-11, and 16-18, would be allowable if rewritten to overcome the objections and rejections, and to include all of the limitations of the base claims and any intervening claims.

ALLOWABLE SUBJECT MATTER

Claims 4, 9-11, and 16-18 have been amended to overcome the rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph and to also include all of the limitations of the base claims and any intervening claims.

Amended claim 4 incorporates the limitation of now canceled independent claim 1 and has been rewritten to recite that a track fitting 10 is used for securing "a covering 11 having a plurality of catches 48" and there is an opening 24 defined by a first foot and a second foot for receiving and securing one of said plurality of catches 48. Claim 4 has also been amended to

correct a typographical error.

Amended claim 9, which incorporates the limitation of now canceled independent claim 5, and amended claim 16, which incorporates the limitation of now canceled independent claim 13, have each been similarly rewritten to recite that the covering 11 has a plurality of catches 48 and the opening 24 is for receiving and securing one of the plurality of catches 48.

Further, claim 9 has also been rewritten to reflect that the claim refers to the same pallet. In the now canceled claim 5, the term “a pallet” appeared in lines 1 and 3. Claim 9, as now rewritten, refers to the term in line 3 as “the pallet.”

Applicants respectfully submit that the amendments to the claims above overcome the indefiniteness issues raised by the Examiner.

OBJECTIONS UNDER 37 CFR 1.83(a), 1.75(d); AND MPEP § 608.01(o)

In response to the Examiner’s objections, Applicants have amended the Specification and Drawings. The disclosure at page 6, lines 11-16, page 7, lines 3-15, and page 8, lines 9-21 have been amended to describe the front portion receiving aperture 15 and the projection receiving aperture 39, designate the elements by reference characters, and provide the proper antecedent basis under 37 CFR 1.75(d)(1) and MPEP § 608.01(o).

Figures 1 and 2 have been amended to add reference characters for the projection receiving aperture 39. Figure 7 has been added to more clearly show the front portion receiving aperture 15. Figure 8 has been added to show the disengaged position of the plunger 14 with the plunger lower end 36 disengaged from the track 30.

35 U.S.C. § 112, SECOND PARAGRAPH REJECTIONS

The Examiner's rejection of claims 12 and 20 under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, regarding the term "contrasting" is respectfully traversed. However, in the interest of expediting the application process, Applicants have canceled claims 12 and 20. Applicants reserve the right to pursue the canceled claims in a continuation application.

35 U.S.C. § 102 AND § 103 REJECTIONS

The Examiner's rejections of claims 1, 5, 8, 12-13, and 19-20 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) and § 103(a) are respectfully traversed. However, in the interest of expediting the application process, Applicants have canceled claims 1, 5, 8, 12-13, and 19-20. Applicants reserve the right to pursue the canceled claims in a continuation application.

CONCLUSION

Having fully responded to the objections and rejections set forth in the Office Action dated June 22, 2007, Applicants respectfully request allowance of all claims now pending in the present application.

Respectfully submitted,

/robert c. yang/

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